Integrated degree of PhD and MSc in Oral Sciences (Clinical)¹

Programme of study for Integrated degree of PhD and MSc in Oral Sciences (Clinical)²

Year One (a total of 120 credits in taught modular courses will be taken as well as the research project)

- The candidate will commence research under the direction of their supervisor(s)
- Compulsory training and skills modules (30 credits).
- Compulsory specialised subject modules (90 credits) from a wide range of masters’ level modules in the specialist areas of:
  - Dental Public Health,
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,
  - Oral Sciences,
  - Craniofacial Biology,
  - Paediatric Dentistry and Restorative Dentistry,
A wide range of Masters’ level modules area also available from the Faculty of Biological Sciences.
- Optional course on the essentials of Learning and Teaching (and assessment). These courses are intended to prepare those candidates who wish to enter an academic career in Higher Education.

Year Two (a total of 60 credits in taught modular courses will be taken as well as the research project)

- The candidate will continue research under the direction of their supervisor(s)
- Compulsory training and skills modules (30 credits)
- Compulsory specialised subject modules (30 credits), from those available for Year One (excluding those taken during Year One)

Years Three and Four

- The candidate will continue research under the direction of their supervisor(s)
- Optional and compulsory non-credit bearing training and skills modules (e.g. Writing for Research Students in the Sciences, Thesis Presentation).

During the programme it is possible for candidates to attend optional courses on the essentials of Learning and Teaching (and assessment). These courses may assist those candidates who intend to enter an academic career in Higher Education.

Changes may be made from time to time to the title of modular courses and the optional modular courses that are available.

¹ This programme has been withdrawn to new applicants from 2012-13. Please see Integrated degree of PhD and MSc in Oral Sciences (Paediatric Dentistry).
² See also the general Programme of Study for the Integrated degrees of PhD and Master (MA, LLM
Learning Outcomes / Transferable Key Skills / Learning Context / Assessment
– overall programme Integrated degree of PhD and MSc in Oral Sciences (Clinical)

1 Learning Outcomes
To meet the Learning Outcomes through a combination of taught components, transferable skills training and research components the students will:

- interpret and communicate knowledge through research and scholarship of publishable quality that would satisfy peer review
- present and defend research outcomes which extend the forefront of the scientific discipline and/or area of clinical practice
- demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the subject area and expertise in generic and subject or professional skills
- be able to undertake decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations including, for clinical candidates, diagnosis and treatment planning (together with the limitations of treatment) and patient management
- be able to underpin clinical practice with theoretical knowledge (clinical candidates) and understand the relevance of their research and theoretic knowledge to clinical dentistry
- take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and develop professional relationships with others, particularly in relation to functioning within a multi-disciplinary team
- formulate ideas and hypotheses proactively and develop, implement and execute plans by which to evaluate these
- be able to articulate complex ideas and discuss them with peers and other professionals
- critically evaluate current issues, research and advanced scholarship
- understand relevant ethical and legal issues and be able to apply them in their research
- understand relevant health and safety issues
- demonstrate responsible working practice

2 Transferable (Key) Skills
Students will have had the opportunity to acquire the following abilities through the research training and research specified for the programme

- the skills necessary for a career as a researcher and/or for employment in a senior and leading capacity in a relevant area of professional/clinical practice or industry;
- evaluating their own achievement and that of others;
- self-direction and effective decision making in complex and unpredictable situations;
- independent learning and the ability to work in a way which ensures continuing professional development;

3 Learning Context
The learning context will include the critical analysis of, and decision making in, complex and unpredictable professional and/or clinical situations. The structure of the programme will provide research and/or professional training, breadth and depth of study and opportunities for drawing upon appropriate resources and techniques. Opportunities will be provided for students to:
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- develop to a high level interests and informed opinions
- develop to a high level their design and management of their learning activities
- develop to a high level their communication of their conclusions;
- make an original contribution to the field

Students will be expected to engage in the exercise of autonomous initiative in their study and work in professional environments.

4 Assessment

Achievement will be assessed by the examination of the candidate’s thesis and performance under oral examination. Assessment will involve the achievement of the candidate in:

- evidencing an ability to conduct original and independent broad and in-depth enquiry within the discipline or within different aspects of the area of professional/clinical practice normally leading to published work;
- drawing on and/or developing a range of research techniques and methodologies appropriate to enquiries into the discipline/area of professional practice;
- demonstrating independent critical ability in the application of breadth and depth of knowledge to complex issues within the discipline or specialist area of professional/clinical practice;
- drawing on a range of perspectives on the area of study;
- evaluating and criticising received opinion;
- making reasoned and well-informed judgements on complex issues within the specialism whilst understanding the limitations on judgements made in the absence of complete data
- the written style and overall presentation of the thesis.

Learning Outcomes / Transferable Key Skills / Learning Context / Assessment for MSc (Oral Sciences)

As the degree programme contains a Masters level qualification, candidates are required to achieve the Masters learning outcomes at the appropriate stage within the Integrated PhD and Masters programme.

1. Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme students should have shown evidence of being able:

- to demonstrate in-depth, specialist knowledge and mastery of techniques relevant to the discipline and/or to demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of concepts, information and techniques at the forefront of the discipline;
- to exhibit mastery in the exercise of generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities;
- to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;
- to take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and to develop professional relationships with others;
- proactively to formulate ideas and hypotheses and to develop, implement and execute plans by which to evaluate these;
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• critically and creatively to evaluate current issues, research and advanced scholarship in the discipline.
• to understand relevant ethical and legal issues
• to understand relevant health and safety issues
• to demonstrate responsible working practice

2. Transferable (key) skills
Masters (Taught) students will have had the opportunity to acquire the following abilities as defined in the modules specified for the programme:

• the skills necessary to undertake a higher research degree and/or for employment in a higher capacity in industry or area of professional practice;
• evaluating their own achievement and that of others;
• self direction and effective decision making in complex and unpredictable situations;
• independent learning and the ability to work in a way which ensures continuing professional development;
• critically to engage in the development of professional/disciplinary boundaries and norms.

3. Learning Context
For Masters (Taught) students the learning context will include the analysis of, and decision making in, complex and unpredictable situations. The structure of the programme will provide breadth and/or depth of study and opportunities for drawing upon appropriate resources and techniques. Opportunities will be provided for students to develop:

• interests and informed opinions
• their involvement in the design and management of their learning activities
• their communication of their conclusions

Students will be expected to progress to fully autonomous study and work.

4. Assessment
Achievement for the degree of Master (taught programme) will be assessed by a variety of methods in accordance with the learning outcomes of the modules specified for the year/programme and will involve the achievement of the students in:

• evidencing an ability to conduct independent in-depth enquiry within the discipline;
• demonstrating the ability to apply breadth and/or depth of knowledge to a complex specialist area;
• drawing on a range of perspectives on an area of study;
• evaluating and criticising received opinion;
• make reasoned judgements whilst understanding the limitations on judgements made in the absence of complete data.